

President Eisenhower gave his warning, President Bush proposes to invest many billions of dollars to achieve military superiority in a new realm, where there currently is no threat, jeopardizing the economic health of the nation and creating instability and mistrust in the hearts of other nations. This will occur unless the citizenry—and its elected representatives—we members of the House and U.S. Senate—especially us—consider and agree upon this course of action. Silence does not equal assent. We must talk, and learn, and consider.

Again, I am admittedly a layman when it comes to high-tech gadgetry on earth, let alone in space. But it seems to me that we must set aside the whizbang and drama of lasers and satellites to consider the real, age-old questions—those that have plagued the great generals throughout time. We should be taking stock of what we have to gain and what we have to lose by moving the lines of battle. We must consider whether or not we have the necessary weapons to protect ourselves and our land before we send our military into new and vastly different frontiers. We should assess the real, known threats to our Nation, and gauge whether we have the weapons and the resources to remain secure, and whether our time, talent, and treasure would be better spent fending off those most likely threats or devising new unproven plans of attack and fabulously expensive means of battle. And we should ponder the awesome responsibility of militarizing space and then being the world's space cop before we rush headlong into the twilight zone called national missile defense.

Madam President, I believe that it would be both wise and prudent to back off just a little bit on the accelerator that is driving us in a headlong and fiscally spendthrift rush to deploy a national missile defense and to invest billions into putting weapons in space and building weapons designed to act in space. That heavy foot on the accelerator is merely the stamp and roar of rhetoric. The threat does not justify the pace. Our budget projections cannot support the pace.

Let us continue to study the matter. Let us continue to conduct research. But the threat, as I say, does not justify the pace at which we are traveling.

Our budget projections cannot support the pace, so let us slow down a bit, look at the map, and consider just where this path is taking us.

Madam President, I thank the distinguished Senator from California who is here prepared to manage the appropriations bill. She is waiting patiently.

I take this opportunity to congratulate her also for the excellent work she has done in preparing this legislation. It was moved through the full Committee on Appropriations yesterday. She is here today prepared to guide its

way through this Senate. I thank her on behalf of the Senate and on behalf of the Nation for the service she has rendered and is rendering and will continue to give us.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARPER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Appropriations Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2904, the Military Construction Appropriations bill, and that the Senate then proceed to its consideration; that immediately after the bill is reported, Senator FEINSTEIN be recognized to offer a substitute amendment, which is the text of S. 1460, the Senate committee reported bill; that the amendment be agreed to and considered as original text for the purpose of further amendment, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that the only other amendment be a managers' amendment; that the debate time on the bill and managers' amendment be limited to 40 minutes, equally divided and controlled in the usual form; that upon disposition of the managers' amendment, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that the bill be read a third time, and the Senate vote on passage of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I simply didn't hear what the assistant majority leader just said.

Mr. REID. I just basically said we are going to move to the military construction appropriations bill.

Mr. KYL. Was that the nature of the unanimous consent request?

Mr. REID. Yes.

Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate with the above occurring with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote on passage of the bill, H.R. 2904, occur immediately, with the time for debate on the bill to occur following the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the order, the bill is discharged from the committee.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2904) making appropriations for military construction, and for other purposes.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am very pleased to join with my ranking member, Senator HUTCHISON of Texas, to bring before the Senate the 2002 military construction appropriations bill and report. I point out that it is a bipartisan bill, it is carefully thought out, it is carefully balanced, and it is timely.

The bill provides \$10.5 billion in new budget authority. This represents a 17.5-percent increase over the fiscal year 2001 funding level and a 5.3-percent increase over the President's budget request. The bill, as reported from the committee, meets the budgetary authority and outlay limits established in the subcommittee's 302(b) allocation.

This is a robust bill, but it is a carefully considered and carefully balanced bill. Our goal from the outset has been to address the highest priority military construction requirements, both at home and abroad. The final product is the balanced mix of readiness projects, barracks and family housing projects, quality-of-life programs, such as child development centers, and an array of Reserve component initiatives.

It is the military construction bill that funds the installations—the home ports and the home bases—of our troops and ships and aircraft. It is the military construction bill that builds the piers and hangars and maintenance shops and operational centers that ready our troops and equipment for deployment. It is this bill that builds the barracks and family housing and childcare centers and medical facilities that serve America's military troops and their families. This bill funds the infrastructure that provides the foundation for training and preparing our military to fight, and for housing their families when they are away.

Given the events of the past few weeks, and the events that we expect to unfold over the coming weeks and months, this bill could not be more timely. The bill was reported out of the full Appropriations Committee only yesterday. We moved it to the floor today in acknowledgement of the pressures under which we are currently operating. Our men and women in uniform cannot afford any delay in getting these projects underway.

Although the bill exceeds the President's budget request, it barely scratches the surface of the enormous